

UNCLAS MAPUTO 000329

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, DS/IP/ITA, DS/OPO/FPD,

POSTS FOR RSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: ARMED ASSAULT ADJACENT TO AMERICAN EMBASSY MAPUTO

¶1. On 03/10/05 at approximately 0037 hours, an armed home invasion robbery attempt was committed against the residence located on the SE corner of Faria de Sousa and Damiao de Gois Rua. This location is directly across from the primary vehicle entrance to the American Embassy at an approximate distance of 15 meters. According to a report filed by Wackenhet guards and an interview of the day-shift guard at the residence, three men were parked across the street from the home, awaiting the arrival of the resident, a Danish citizen and an employee of Motorcare. When the resident arrived two men got out of their vehicle and made entry through the residential vehicle gate. They instructed the guard, from Securcor, to lie down on the ground under the car and for the victim to get out of his car. During this time, while the assailants were dealing with the victim, the guard sneaked out from under the car and activated the silent panic alarm. A Securcor armed response team arrived shortly thereafter to assess the situation. Upon their arrival, they received gunfire from the assailants who were now getting in their car to escape. The assailants drove off, but the Securcor vehicle did not give chase since it was still receiving fire from the assailants, scoring hits on the security vehicle. The RSO was contacted shortly thereafter and made aware of the incident. Local Embassy guards and police posted at the Embassy did not respond. Witnesses said that four to five shots were fired. Police recovered two shell casings.

¶2. Review of Embassy security cameras show an account slightly different than that stated by the witnesses questioned by the Wackenhet guards, the police, RSO, and ARSO. Primary differences center on the fact that it appears the assailants' vehicle arrived approximately 50 seconds after the arrival of the resident. It also appears that the assailants fired from their car as they drove away, firing their weapons in a southerly direction down Damiao de Gois, along the west side of the Embassy with a line of fire adjacent to the guard booth, rather than down Faria de Sousa and away from the Embassy as stated by the witnesses. The post directly across the street from the incident is manned by one Wackenhet guard, one police officer, and one rapid reaction force police officer. Video shows that the rapid reaction force police officer was likely asleep or at least inattentive to the situation prior to it occurring. The other police officer was just coming out of the Annex building as the event happened. As shots were fired, police and guards all took cover. Video resolution was poor and did not capture any relevant details such as make, model or license plate of the vehicles. Video from the DVR was saved to a CD and stored in the RSO files.

¶3. PIR and PRM commanders were informed and a meeting was conducted on the morning of 03/10/05 to discuss the event and the lack of police response. Police commanders questioned the guards and the police posted at the Embassy and ensured the RSO that corrective measures would be taken immediately to improve police response and effectiveness.

¶4. RSO Comment: This incident is in line with those that have occurred in the past several months, although it appears that the assailants are becoming more brazen as there appeared to be little reluctance on their part to fire on security forces. This assault causes further concern due to the proximity to the American Embassy and an armed local police presence, and that they attacked a residence with visible security measures. Embassy personnel will be informed of the incident and reminded to be alert, especially when arriving at their residences where they are most vulnerable.

LALIME